

SECRET

Germany/USSR

-X-24218

Views on the Current Struggle for  
Power in the USSR

9 August 1954

1

25 May 1954

Germany,

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2000 2008

*Mr. [ ] of CCI  
stated that he  
would comment  
on following.*

Competent intelligence analysts (B) from a German specialist on developments  
in the Soviet counter-espionage field (B). Appraisal of Content: 3.

The following views on the struggle for power in the USSR have been expressed  
by the source identified above:

1. Source does not believe that the fall of Beria signified Red Army ascendancy in the USSR. Source points out that although the top military man in the USSR is a general, he is not really an Army man, but a State Security general. The views of his two subordinate leading army generals are in almost direct opposition with each other, both personally, and in regard to their concepts of professional strategy and tactics. Therefore, it is assumed that these two are easily and deliberately played off against one another.
2. Source believes that the importance of the Communist Party in the USSR cannot be overestimated. However, he is now inclined to believe that Malenkov, because of his involvement in the government apparatus, is playing a lesser role in the Party and therefore may be headed for a decline. Source gave considerable significance to the Soviet press reports indicating that, during recent speeches, Malenkov addressed the Chamber of Nationalities. This assembly is of lesser stature than the Chamber of Soviet Republics which was addressed by Khrushchev, and the latter's speech received more space in the Soviet press than did Malenkov's. Source also considered significant the fact that Khrushchev received a more enthusiastic reception and applause than did Malenkov.